

# ASK ABOUT POVERTY AT A HUSTINGS EVENT

Asking a question about poverty at a local hustings event is a great way to get poverty on the agenda. It's also an opportunity to ask candidates to set out their plans to take action, if elected.

**Suggested question: What will you each personally do to make tackling poverty a bigger priority in parliament if you are elected?**

## **Top tips to get your question asked**

- Find out if you need to submit questions in advance. Some events require them to be emailed beforehand. Get in there early to increase your chances.
- Team up with a group and each submit a similar question about poverty. This is likely to increase the chance of poverty being seen as an important issue and included as a topic.

## **How to construct a good question**

- Keep it short and direct. Stick to a single point and get to the question quickly.
- Be polite and respectful. You don't want candidates to disregard a question because it was asked in a negative or aggressive way.
- Do some research. You might want to include an impactful statistic or case study that reflects the experience of your community.
- Practice! Speaking to a crowd can be daunting - practice at home to help you deliver it in a confident way.

## **Remember...**

- The audience matters. There might be other people in the room who care about poverty, and want to know how to get involved. Order some Let's End Poverty postcards to take with you and give out afterwards.
- Follow up. Note down what each candidate says in response to your question, and then follow up with the one who is elected – ask for a conversation about how they will put what they said into practice!

## **Find out if a hustings is happening in your area**

There is no national database of events, but you can see a list of registered hustings events in churches here: [churcheselection.org.uk](http://churcheselection.org.uk)